

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 EC BRU 07439 281756Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01

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FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1657

INFO ALL EC CAPITALS 2390

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION BERLIN

USMISSION NATO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EEC, PFOR

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, JULY 27: EUROPEAN  
PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS

REFS (A) EC BRUSSELS 7291 (NOTAL), (B) EC BRUSSELS 7187 (NOTAL),  
(C) EC BRUSSELS 6907 (NOTAL), (D) USMISSION BERLIN  
1505 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: AT THEIR JULY 27 COUNCIL MEETING, THE EC FOREIGN  
MINISTERS FAILED ONCE AGAIN TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES STILL  
BLOCKING THE FORMAL CODIFICATION OF THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL  
DECISION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS (EC BRUSSELS 6907 AND 7187).  
THEY PLAN TO MAKE ANOTHER, HOPEFULLY CONCLUSIVE, ATTEMPT TO  
RESOLVE THE MATTER AT THEIR SEPTEMBER 20 COUNCIL MEETING.  
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 EC BRU 07439 281756Z

2. THE STICKING POINT THIS TIME CAME WHEN UK MINISTER OF STATE HATTERSLEY INFORMED THE OTHER MINISTERS THAT THE BRITISH CABINET SIMPLY HAD NOT HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO REVIEW THE COMPROMISE PROPOSAL DEVELOPED AT THE JULY 19-20 COUNCIL MEETING (EC BRUSSELS 7187) AND THAT HE WOULD THEREFORE BE UNABLE TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL. THE BRITISH STATEMENT, PARTS OF WHICH HATTERSLEY LATER RELEASED TO THE PRESS, RECONFIRMED UK WILLINGNESS TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION AND REITERATED THAT THE UK HAD BEEN WILLING TO ENDORSE THE DRAFT "INSTRUMENT" CONSIDERED AT LAST WEEK'S COUNCIL (EC BRUSSELS 7187). HATTERSLEY POINTED OUT TO THE PRESS THAT CABINET REVIEW OF THE NEW DRAFT WAS ESSENTIAL BUT SAID THERE COULD BE NO ASSURANCE THAT THE CABINET, "WHICH HAS MANY MATTERS TO CONSIDER", WOULD TAKE UP DIRECT ELECTIONS AT ITS MEETING THIS THURSDAY.

3. HATTERSLEY TOLD THE PRESS THAT HIS REMARKS HAD BEEN RECEIVED SYMPATHETICALLY AND THAT THE OTHER MINISTERS CONSIDERED THE BRITISH POSITION "WHOLLY REASONABLE". AT HIS POST-SESSION PRESS CONFERENCE, DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL, THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, STRESSED THAT THERE WAS NO FEELING OF PESSIMISM ABOUT THE FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT AND THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT A SOLUTION WOULD BE FOUND DURING THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

4. PERM REP AND COUNCIL SOURCES HAVE PRIVATELY EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT THE UK WILL BE PREPARED TO REACH A FINAL DECISION ON SEPTEMBER 20 AND FEEL THAT THE OCTOBER 19-20 COUNCIL IS A MORE LIKELY TARGET DATE. THESE SOURCES NOTE THAT THE UK LABOUR PARTY CONVENTION WILL NOT BE HELD UNTIL THE LAST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER AND THAT THE PARTY'S GENERAL SECRETARY, RONALD HAYWARD, INDICATED DURING A RECENT VISIT TO BRUSSELS THAT THE PARTY WOULD INSIST ON A SAY IN DIRECT ELECTIONS.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER AT YESTERDAY'S COUNCIL SOURCES THAT THE FORMAL "INSTRUMENT" LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03      EC BRU 07439 281756Z

NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION CONSISTS OF: (1) A COUNCIL DECISION RECOMMENDING MEMBER STATE PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION OF (2) AN ANNEX TO THE DECISION (NOT FORMALLY A CONVENTION) CODIFYING THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION AND (3) A COUNCIL DECLARATION, ALSO ANNEXED TO THE COUNCIL DECISION, SETTING FORTH THE DANISH RESERVES (CONCURRENT VOTING AND EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS; DUAL MANDATE FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS). ACCORD-

ING TO PERM REP SOURCES, THE DANES HAVE AGREED TO NEGOTIATE WITH THEIR PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE ON THE NEED FOR FLEXIBILITY ON THE TWO POINTS OF THEIR RESERVE AND ON A COMMITMENT THAT THIS EXCEPTION FOR DENMARK WILL ONLY BE INVOKED ONCE.

6. FOR US MISSION BERLIN:

ACCORDING TO COUNCIL AND PERM REP SOURCES, THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS WILL EVENTUALLY BE CODIFIED BY FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL DECISION, REQUIRING MEMBER STATE PARLIAMENTARY RATIFICATION. EVEN IF THE COUNCIL WERE TO REACH A DECISION SEPTEMBER 20, THE RATIFICATION PROCESS WILL, ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES, BE LENGTHY. HINTON

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## Message Attributes

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